**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A stable pharmaceutical composition of erythropoietin (EPO), wherein the composition consists ~~essentially~~ of:

a. a therapeutically effective amount of EPO,

b. a pharmaceutically acceptable pH buffering system,

c. a poloxamer polyol,

d. a polyhydric alcohol and, optionally,

e. an isotonifying agent.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is ~~substantially~~ free of ~~additives derived from human and/or animal origin, other than EPO~~ serum albumins.

Claim 3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is aqueous.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutical quantity of EPO is formulated to provide a quantity per dose in the range of about 500 to about 100000 IU EPO.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 5, wherein the pharmaceutical quantity is formulated to provide a quantity per dose selected from the group consisting of about 1000 IU, about 2000IU, about 3000 IU, about 4000 IU, about 10000 IU, about 20000 IU, about 25000 IU, about 40000 IU, about 50000 IU, about 60000 IU and about 100000 IU.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the pH buffering system provides a pH range of from about 6 to about 8.

Claim 8. (Original) The composition of claim 7, wherein the pH buffering system provides a pH range of from about 6.8 to about 7.5.

Claim 9. (Original) The composition of claim 7, wherein the pH buffering system provides a pH of about 7.0.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the pH buffering system ~~comprises~~ is a phosphate buffer.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the poloxamer polyol ~~comprises~~ is a polyol selected from the group of non-ionic surface active agents.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 11, wherein the poloxamer polyol ~~comprises~~ is Pluronic F68.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 11, wherein the poloxamer polyol is present in an amount ranging from about 0.05 w/v % to about 0.5 w/v %.

Claim 14. (Original) The composition of claim 11, wherein the poloxamer polyol is present in an amount of about 0.1% w/v.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the polyhydric alcohol ~~comprises~~ is an alcohol selected from the group consisting of glycerol, sorbitol, mannitol and/or xyliol.

Claim 16. (Original) The composition of claim 15, wherein the polyhydric alcohol ~~is~~ comprises glycerol.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 15, wherein the concentration of polyhydric alcohol is in the range of from about 0.1 w/v % to about 10 w/v %.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 15, wherein the concentration of polyhydric alcohol is in the range of from about 2 w/v % to about 5 w/v %.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said isotonifying agent ~~comprises~~ is an inorganic salt.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 19, wherein said isotonifying agent ~~comprises~~ is NaCl.

Claims 21 – 22. (Cancelled)